
WAUKESHA COUNTY CJCC

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MAY 22, 2014

MINUTES

Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Present: Sam Benedict (Chair), Judge William Domina, Pete Slesar, Ted Szczupakiewicz, Luke Hallmark, Dick Farvour. **Absent:** Kelly Haag, Sara Carpenter, Linda Saafir

Also Present: Rebecca Luczaj, Molly Jasmer, Windy Jicha, Monica Paz, Evan Nordgren, Mary Wittwer

Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2013

Motion: Domina moved, Farvour second to approve the minutes of November 14, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Recent Case Filing & Detention Statistics Including Delinquency & Truancy Dispositions

Paz distributed and reviewed a handout featuring detention hearing statistics from 2005 to 2014 indicating that the number of detention hearings continues to decrease for a variety of reasons such as changes in staff and supervision, youth getting into less trouble, etc. Benedict said it is important to remember these numbers represent events rather than individual children. Slesar said these statistics mirror HHS caseloads. The smaller number of youth being served have big issues. The numbers in detention can quickly fluctuate when you have “chronic runners” or repeat customers. The trend of declining number of delinquents is a nationwide phenomenon. Domina said there may be a lot of reasons systemically for this trend.

Paz distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Truancy Uncontrollable (JIPS) Filings* which provided monthly statistics from 2006 to 2013 for truanies and uncontrollables. So far in 2014, there have been 47 truanies which exceeds the total truanies in 2012 (46) and is slightly below total truanies in 2013 (55). Year-to-date there have been 11 uncontrollables which is high compared to the 22 total uncontrollable in 2013. Slesar said 70% of HHS intake referrals for truanies occur in the first part of the school year. Annualizing total truanies and uncontrollables may not be a good forecast of 2014 data.

In response to Farvour’s question, Slesar said these statistics indicate the number of truanies that entered into the courts. Paz said the lower number of uncontrollables (22) in 2013 was an anomaly.

Paz distributed and reviewed a handout showing annual data for 2006 to 2013 for the following juvenile court services: adoptions, child in need of protection, injunctions, guardianships, juvenile mentals, ordinances, JIPS, delinquencies, termination of parental rights and adult mentals. During this period, guardianships and termination of parental rights cases have increased while juvenile and mental cases have decreased.

Slesar said the new youth emergency detention protocols installed last year could be affecting these statistics. Hallmark said Waukesha West High School had three incidents where crisis workers were able to stabilize youth and so chapter 51s were not necessary. Benedict said he hopes the downward trend in juvenile court services is good news.

Update on Formation of Committee to Improve Habitual Truancy

Jasmer said a committee of various justice partners was formed to seek alternate methods of dealing with habitually truant youth that ideally involves department support but not court involvement. At the first two meetings, the group looked at different categories of habitual truants, what works/doesn't work and brainstormed strategies.

Some of the strategies included:

- File petitions against the parents
- Provide support for families
- Set conditions for parents who enable
- Develop a truancy court with deferred prosecution agreements
- Enact various sanctions such as shelter or work programs.

Jasmer said committee members agreed intensive tracking and homebound detention works and were surprised how much of an impact the juvenile judge and courts make.

Benedict asked are evidence-based decision making practices being followed? The committee should focus efforts on the evidence. Jasmer said data is being examined and ideas are based on evidence. The committee needs to examine which DPAs work/do not work and make rules based on the results. Slesar said the committee will explore the truancy database to get a sense of risk factors and is excited about using data to pose hypotheses.

Domina talked about the benefits and successes of Appleton's truancy courts and would like the committee to explore that option along with Saturday work sanctions. Benedict said the Saturday work sanctions worked well but suffered during budget cuts. Evidence of success would be needed to bring them back.

Farvour asked has the committee considered bringing back the education specialist position to work with youth, schools and courts? Slesar said the position, which provided communication/coordination between systems, was abolished due to budgetary reasons. It is challenging to bring positions back after they have been abolished. Jasmer said schools that engage youth have positive outcomes. Schools need to find new methods that work to avoid the school-to-prison pipeline. Slesar said there is big variety between school districts.

Health & Human Services Department Updates

2012 DOJ Annual Report on Juvenile Arrests by Jurisdiction

Slesar distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Table 1: Number of Arrests and Percent Change, 2011-2013* which presents number of adult and youth arrests in Waukesha County by crime (violent, property, drugs, society and other) and municipality. Slesar said this report and many others obtained from the WI Department of Justice website provide year-to-year comparisons and crime-related statistics. Page 53 of the handout shows Waukesha County's juvenile arrest rate reduced 7.62% from 2011 to 2012 while the State of Wisconsin's decreased 4.21%.

Slesar distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Total Property Arrests by Jurisdiction, 2012* which indicates the number of juvenile and adult arrests in 2012 by municipality and crime (burglary, theft, MV theft, arson, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property and vandalism).

Overview of Delinquency & Truancy Intakes from 2005 to Present

Slesar distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Delinquency & Truancy Referrals 2005-2014* and said schools may be playing a different role which has resulted in declining truanancies. HHS uses a risk tool to screen kids to help direct resources to those with the highest need. It is important to not mix low and high risk youth to avoid the low risk youth adopting the habits and attitudes of the high risk youth.

Review Secure Detention & Shelter Care Data & Trends

Slesar distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Juvenile Center Annual Figures* which includes the average daily population of Waukesha County juvenile females housed at Washington County's secured facility.

Per Benedict's suggestion, Slesar will make some improvements to *Delinquency & Truancy Referrals 2005-2014* and *Juvenile Center Annual Figures* reports and email them to the committee.

Shelter Care Update

Slesar said Resolution 168-R-010 (Support the Implementation of a Contracted Solution for the Provision of Non-Secure Residential Care Services for Juveniles in the 2015 Proposed Budget) was tabled on April 8, 2014. Because it was tabled at the last meeting of the board year, the resolution will need to be reintroduced to the board for consideration. Lad Lake had already been selected to provide services through an RFP.

Domina asked did budget analysis include the cost of continuation and transfer for all stakeholders, and lost revenues from not contracting services to other counties? Benedict asked did the report identify how outsourcing this service would affect stakeholders? Slesar said a study measured the costs to the county. Youth would be brought back to Waukesha County at least two hours before hearings to meet with their attorneys and social workers. Benedict said it is a horrible model for families and lawyers to only meet on the court date. Slesar said he will seek answers to Domina's and Benedict's questions.

Domina said outsourcing this service is ridiculous, will increase staff travel time considerably and decrease staff's availability for court. In response to Domina's questions, Slesar said Lad Lake would not mix populations. Youth would be transported by the Sheriff's Department. Stakeholders can present their thoughts to the County Board.

Set Next Meeting Date & Discuss Agenda Items

Luczaj will send out a Doodle survey to set up the next meeting in fall 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.